

Soldiers headed to mobilization training at Camp Shelby

On page 2: Va. Guard winter storm duty

Lynchburg-based infantry battalion begins active duty

The Virginia National Guard’s Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Brigade Combat Team conducted at departure ceremony Jan. 8 at the Schilling Center at Liberty University in Lynchburg to mark the official start of federal active duty service for approximately 400 Soldiers. The unit is expected to have a security force mission in Iraq.

“Like you Soldiers of today, we were well-trained, tough and ready to do our duty,” said Bob Slaughter, a World War II veteran who served in the 116th Infantry on D-Day. “Our country was behind us all the way, and so were our hometowns and families. We did our jobs as best we could, and to have done less was unthinkable. You make this citizen-Soldier proud.”

Slaughter served in Company D of the 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division and was in the first wave of troops to storm the beaches of Normandy on D-Day. More than 10 other World War II veterans were in attendance for the ceremony.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/jan10/1-116departure.html>



Command Sgt. Maj. John Braziel cases the unit colors for the trip to Camp Shelby after the departure ceremony for 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment held in Lynchburg Jan. 8.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Virginia Beach-based Guard battalion ordered to mobilize for active duty

The Virginia National Guard’s Virginia Beach-based 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group has received a mobilization order to enter federal active service for duty in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, according to an announcement made Jan. 12 by Maj. Gen. Robert. B. Newman, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/jan10/529thMob.html>

Virginia DMA to play key role in supporting Governor’s Inauguration

Approximately 300 personnel from the Virginia Department of Military Affairs will be on duty in Richmond Jan. 16 supporting the inauguration of Bob McDonnell as the 71st Governor of Virginia.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/jan10/InaugRelease.html>

Batts takes command of 29th Infantry Division

Brig. Gen. Frank E. Batts, Sr., deputy commanding general of the 29th Infantry Division took charge of the 29th Infantry Division during a change of command ceremony Jan. 5 at the division headquarters on Fort Belvoir.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/jan10/29thCommand.html>

ChalleNge program graduates largest class in program history

The Virginia National Guard’s Commonwealth ChalleNge Youth Academy graduated the largest class in the history of the program Dec. 19 in a ceremony at Virginia Beach’s Ocean Lakes High School.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/jan10/ChallengeProgram.html>

Mark Your Calendars!

Jan. 16: Governor’s Inauguration

Governor-elect Robert F. McDonnell will take the oath of office as the 71st Governor of Virginia at noon in Richmond on the steps of the Virginia State Capitol.

Joint Family Support Assistance Program Regional ReachOuts

JFSAP is sponsoring informative workshops for all military service members and their families on the following dates:

Jan. 21: Mechanicsville from 7 to 8 p.m. at VFW Post # 9808 located at 7168 Flag Street (Bells Creek & Cold Harbor Hwy 156)

Jan 28: Salem from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Military Family Support Center located at 710 Apperson Road

For more information contact Kaye Carney via email at Kaye.Carney@MilitaryOneSource.com or by phone at (804) 926 -7604.

Virginia Guard supports winter storm recovery efforts

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine authorized members of the Virginia Guard for state active duty to assist state and local authorities with the response to a major winter storm that began Dec. 18, 2009. At the peak of the response, the Virginia Guard had nearly 700 Soldiers and Airmen on duty along the I-81 corridor from Winchester to Danville, and also conducted support operations in Lynchburg, Stafford and Charlottesville. Soldiers continued to operate in the Southwest Virginia area through Dec. 24.

The Virginia Guard conducted a variety of missions including rescuing stranded motorists, delivering food, water and blankets to shelters and snow-bound homes, providing ambulances to the sick and injured, transporting health care professionals to hospitals, conducting door to door checks on the health and welfare of residents and delivering crews to repair downed power lines in the remote regions of Virginia.

Soldiers from the Staunton-based Headquarters, 116th Brigade Combat Team assisted with the transport of more than 30 stranded motorists along mile markers 175 to 195 along I-81, assisted with establishing and operating a shelter in Rockbridge County, transported more than 15 nurses and doctors to hospital facilities and assisted with multiple vehicle recoveries.

Soldiers from South Boston-based Company A, 429th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th Brigade Combat Team rescued nearly 20 stranded motorists along Routes 29, 151, 722, 117 and 6, conducted search and rescue missions along Afton Mountain Road and Stage Bridge Road.

Soldiers from the Charlottesville-based Company C, 429th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th Brigade Combat Team assisted with transporting approximately 35 citizens to shelters, transported 168 gallons of water and 350 heater meals to Lexington, delivered 100 blankets to a shelter in Nelson County and assisted with patient transport from Standardsville to a local hospital.

Soldiers from the Lynchburg-based Company E, 429th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th Brigade Combat Team assisted with sheltering operations in Lexington, delivered supplies to a shelter in Rockbridge County and assisted with transporting rescued motorists stranded along I-81.

Soldiers from the Winchester-based 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment (also with Soldiers from Woodstock, and Harrisonburg) assisted local authorities with recovering stranded motorists, aiding isolated residents and moving essential personnel.

Soldiers from the Fredricksburg-based Company D, 3rd Battalion, 116th Brigade Combat Team operated in the Stafford area where they rescued a first responder from a vehicle stuck in a ditch, transported medical professionals and assisted with the recovery of six ambulances and a fire truck.

Soldiers from the Leesburg-based Company C, 3rd Battalion, 116th Brigade Combat Team operated in the Leesburg area assisting in the movement of key personnel to critical facilities.

Soldiers from the Portsmouth-based 2nd Battalion, 183rd Cavalry Regiment conducted water distribution missions in Southwest Virginia.



Virginia National Guard Soldiers assist rescued motorists with transport to a shelter in Charlottesville during winter storm recovery operations Dec. 19.

Soldiers from the Hampton-based 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery Regiment assisted citizens in Augusta County.

Soldiers from the Gate City-based 1030th Transportation Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group assisted with transporting rescued stranded motorists to shelters in Clintwood and Norton, and conducted search and rescue mission in the Flatwoods National Forest. Soldiers also delivered food and water and conducted door-to-door checks on health and welfare in Wise County and operated water distribution points in Dickenson County.

Airmen from the Virginia Beach-based 203d RED HORSE Civil Engineering Squadron transported cots to Wise County.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/jan10/stormwrapup.html>

MORE ON THE WEB

Official Web Site of the 2010 Va. Governor's Inauguration

<http://mcdonnellinaugural.com/>

Commonwealth ChalleNGe Program

<http://www.ngvcp.org/site/state/va/>

Photos from 1-116th Infantry Departure Ceremony

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157623169568114/>

1-116th Infantry Facebook Page

<http://www.facebook.com/1stBattalion116thInfantry>

Virginia Guard Public Affairs Facebook Page

<http://www.facebook.com/vanguardpao>

Virginia Guard Public Affairs Flickr Photostream

<http://flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao>

Virginia Guard Public Affairs YouTube Channel

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